

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268-0001

Before Commissioners:

Ruth Y. Goldway, Chairman;
Robert G. Taub, Vice Chairman;
Mark Acton;
Tony Hammond; and
Nanci E. Langley

Modification of Mail Classification Schedule
Regarding Certain Ancillary Services

Docket No. MC2013-28

ORDER APPROVING MINOR CLASSIFICATION CHANGES
RELATED TO CERTAIN ANCILLARY SERVICES

(Issued January 24, 2013)

On January 8, 2013, the Postal Service filed a notice pursuant to 39 C.F.R. 3020.90 and 3020.91 concerning changes to the Mail Classification Schedule (MCS) that modify the descriptions of certain Ancillary Services.¹ On January 15, 2013, the Postal Service filed a response to the Commission's request for supplemental information and provided supplemental changes to its initial notice.² The Commission finds that the classification changes, as revised on January 15, 2013, are consistent with 39 C.F.R. 3020.90 *et seq.* and will approve the proposed changes to the draft MCS subject to editorial revisions.

¹ Notice of the United States Postal Service of Minor Classification Changes Related to Certain Ancillary Services, January 8, 2013 (Notice).

² Response of the United States Postal Service to Order No. 1614, January 15, 2013 (Response).

Description of classification changes. The Postal Service separates its proposed amendments to the language in the MCS into two categories. Notice at 1.

First, the Postal Service proposes to change the name of the “Delivery Confirmation” service to the “USPS Tracking” service. In addition to this change, the Postal Service proposes amendments to that section’s description, which reflect improved service, make grammatical corrections, and more accurately describes the service being offered. *Id.*

Second, the proposed amendments make changes to the descriptions of several other Ancillary Services, including Certified Mail, Certificate of Mailing, Collect on Delivery, Insurance, Merchandise Return Service, Registered Mail, Return Receipt, Return Receipt for Merchandise, Restricted Delivery, Signature Confirmation, and Special Handling. *Id.* at 2 n.2. These proposed changes correct grammatical errors, offer more accurate descriptions, note service improvements, and update the names of products. *Id.* at 2.

The Postal Service indicates that these changes do not affect prices or services. These changes update the MCS language to match the levels of service currently offered to customers. *Id.* at 1. The Postal Service further indicates that these changes are consistent with 39 U.S.C. § 3642 and will improve customers’ understanding of the services offered. *Id.* at 2. The Postal Service requests that the Commission approve the changes by January 27, 2013, so the changes can take effect with the price changes approved in Docket No. R2013-1. *Id.*

Request for supplemental information. In its initial order, the Commission requested that the Postal Service provide additional information concerning its use of “for a period of time specified in the Domestic Mail Manual” and “for a specified period of time” to describe the length of time that the Postal Service retains delivery records of several ancillary services.³ In response, the Postal Service states that the references to the Domestic Mail Manual were in error; provides the duration of each “specified period

³ Order No. 1614, Notice and Order Concerning Minor Classification Changes Related to Certain Ancillary Services, January 10, 2013.

of time;” and submits supplemental changes which remove the Domestic Mail Manual references. Response at 2; Attachment A.

Comments. Comments were filed by the Public Representative.⁴ The Public Representative considers the proposed changes to be consistent with 39 C.F.R. 3020.90 and 3020.91, because the changes do not affect the cost or market characteristics of these Ancillary Service products. PR Comments at 2. The Public Representative recommends that the Commission approve the proposed changes. *Id.*

Comments were also filed by David B. Popkin. Popkin’s filing highlights areas where he believes the MCS descriptions are incomplete; raises questions for the Postal Service; and offers potential service enhancements.⁵ 39 C.F.R. 3020.92 provides the opportunity to comment on whether the planned changes are inconsistent with 39 U.S.C. § 3642. Popkin’s questions and proposed enhancements go beyond this narrow purpose, *e.g.*, asking why certain services are not available through a rural carrier. Thus, such comments are outside the scope of this docket. However, since editorial corrections are within the scope of this docket, the Commission adopts his proposed grammatical correction to section 1505.7.1(b). 39 C.F.R. 3020.93; Popkin Comments at 1.

Commission analysis. The proposed classification changes were filed pursuant to 39 C.F.R. 3020.90 and 3020.91 and applicable to changes initiated by the Postal Service to ensure product descriptions in the MCS accurately represent current product and service offerings of the Postal Service. 39 C.F.R. 3020.90. Notices filed pursuant to rule 3020.90 *et seq.* are limited to changes in the MCS that are relatively minor in nature and that do not entail modifying either the market dominant or the competitive product list. 39 C.F.R. 3020.91. If the changes satisfy these criteria, the Commission shall, subject to editorial revisions, modify the MCS to coincide with the effective date of the proposed change. 39 C.F.R. 3020.93.

⁴ Public Representative Comments on Postal Service Notice of Minor Classification Change Concerning Certain Ancillary Services, January 18, 2013 (PR Comments).

⁵ Comments of David B. Popkin, January 17, 2013 (Popkin Comments).

The Commission finds that the changes proposed by the Postal Service, as supplemented on January 15, 2013, serve to improve the accuracy of the descriptions of the Postal Service's current offerings and are not inconsistent with 39 U.S.C. § 3642. Accordingly, the Commission will incorporate the substance of the Postal Service's proposed changes to the MCS. These changes will be subject to editorial changes, including clarification of the Postal Service's delivery record retention policies and correction of grammatical and typographical errors.

Accordingly, the Commission accepts the substance of the changes specified in the Postal Service's Notice and Response and shall make conforming modifications to the draft MCS.

It is ordered:

1. The proposed classification changes are consistent with 39 C.F.R. 3020.90 *et seq.*
2. The draft Mail Classification Schedule language will be modified as discussed in the body of this Order.

By the Commission.

Shoshana M. Grove
Secretary